



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for December 2025 to the Policing and Community Safety Authority

In accordance with Section 133 (1) of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024¹

¹ Please be advised that reviews are currently underway to re-configure reporting in line with the PSCS Act in February 2026.

An Garda Síochána

Oifig an Choimisinéara
An Garda Síochána
Páirc an Fhionnuisce
Baile Átha Cliath 8
D08 HN3X



Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do thoil:
Please quote the following ref. number: **CMR_86-53736/25**



Office of the Commissioner
Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
D08 HN3X

Láithreán Gréasáin/ Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomhpost/E-mail:
commissioner@garda.ie

Ms. Helen Hall
Chief Executive
Policing and Community Safety Authority

RE: Commissioner's Monthly Report to the Policing and Community Safety Authority

Dear Helen,

I am pleased to provide the Commissioner's Monthly Report, outlining the key aspects of the administration and operation of An Garda Síochána for the month of December 2025, in accordance with Section 133(1) of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thelma Watters' followed by the initials 'c/spr'.

**THELMA WATTERS
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

23 January 2026

1. Message from the Commissioner

During the month of December 2025, a significant policing and security operation was put in place to support the high profile State visit of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. This was a complex and sensitive policing operation, which took cognisance of international factors and involved collaboration with many relevant stakeholders.

A successful policing operation was also put in place for the Shelbourne versus Crystal Palace UEFA Conference League match, which was held at Tallaght Stadium in Dublin on 11 December 2025. Our high visibility policing initiative in urban areas supported a safe festive season, as people enjoyed retail and social experiences with their families and friends.

A positive development this month was the sod turning for Clonmel Garda Station in Co. Tipperary conducted by the Minister for Justice, Jim O’Callaghan TD. The station is due to be completed by 2027. An Garda Síochána were also delighted to welcome the arrival of a new fixed wing aircraft which will support our policing operations going forward.

An Garda Síochána launched a pilot Taser project, which saw Tasers rolled out in three Garda Divisions to 128 specially trained frontline Gardaí. The pilot will run in the DMR North Central, DMR South Central and Waterford, and Tasers will only be issued to Gardaí who are also equipped with body-worn cameras. A public information campaign was initiated in support of this pilot this month.

In December 2025, we continued to focus our efforts on road safety, which included the Garda Christmas Road Safety campaign and National Slow Down Day. Throughout the month, we shared news of our detections with the public and media to encourage better driver behaviour. We also highlighted the 390 new safety camera zones. Regrettably, however, 24 people lost their lives on our roads and a further 67 were seriously injured.

Again this month, there were numerous serious crime incidents and important detections which were subject to investigation, subsequent public appeal for information and media engagements. Of particular note was an arson attack on a home in Co. Offaly, which resulted in the murder of a four-year old boy and his grand-aunt. This investigation is ongoing.

An Garda Síochána hosted the European Union Cybercrime Task Force (EUCTF) in Dublin. Gardaí also attended the annual meeting of the EU Network of Law Enforcement Contact Points in Brussels.

An Garda Síochána launched its 16 Days of Activism campaign supporting public messaging on domestic and sexual based violence. This year the campaign sought to highlight that such abuse doesn’t need to be physical and served to highlight online dangers.

On 3 December 2025, I had the opportunity to meet many families and friends attending the National Missing Persons Day to remember those missing in Ireland. It also allowed an opportunity to highlight open and unsolved missing persons cases and an appeal to the public for information.

On 17 December 2025, An Garda Síochána and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, signed An Garda Síochána/Tusla Data Sharing Agreement. This agreement establishes a framework for information sharing between both organisations, enhancing coordination in child protection, child welfare and criminal investigations, and supporting timely, informed decision making in children at risk cases.

Amongst many key engagements throughout the month, I met with PSNI Chief Constable, Jon Boucher and Director General of the National Crime Agency, Graeme Biggar in Belfast, where cross-border collaboration was a key focus.

Justin Kelly
Garda Commissioner

2. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2025 Allocation €'000	2025 Supplementary €'000	Expenditure/Receipts end December 2025 €'000	Capital Carry Over to 2026 €'000	Mandatory Surrender Balance €'000	Surrender Balance %
Gross Total	2,497,039	2,557,038	2,535,760	-17,310	3,968	0.16%
Appropriation in Aid (receipts)	-113,500	153,076	161,862	0	8,786	6%
Net Total	2,383,539	2,710,114	2,697,622	-17,310	12,754	0.5%

Financial figures as at 31 December 2025

An Garda Síochána had a gross expenditure budget of €2.50b for 2025. Following the supplementary process, this allocation was increased by €60m to €2.56b, primarily due to the need to supplement overtime. At the end of the financial year, total gross expenditure is €2.53b.

Overall, gross expenditure is under budget profile by €21.28m, of which €3.65m is current expenditure and €17.63m relates to capital expenditure.

The current expenditure underspend of €3.65m, represents just 0.15% of the budget allocation of €2.37b. An Garda Síochána management have closely managed the current expenditure to maximise available funding.

Capital expenditure of €172.06m is an underspend by €17.63m, driven by capital carryover of €17.31m to fund deferred capital projects in 2026.

Appropriations in Aid of €161.86m was €8.79m over the budget profile of €153.08m. This is largely driven by miscellaneous receipts of €8.37m over profile driven by forfeitures of cash, the timing and amount of which is unpredictable.

Estate Management

We were delighted that work commenced this month, with a turning of the sod for Clonmel Garda Station by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan and Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, Kevin Boxer Moran. This project is scheduled for completion by 2027.

Works continue at Bailieborough, Portlaoise and Newcastle West Garda Stations, and are the subject of active engagement between the OPW and An Garda Síochána.

National Infrastructure Upgrade (NIU) is currently being assessed. NIU required to support rollout of body-worn cameras. No timelines agreed as of yet.

3. People and Development

The Strength of Garda Personnel

As at 31 December 2025, the Garda member strength stood at 14,425 and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,672. A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

Garda Member Strengths as at 31 December 2025

Rank	As of 31 December 2025	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100	0	0	1
Deputy Commissioner	1	0	0	1	100	1
Assistant Commissioner	8	3	38	5	63	8
Chief Superintendent	46	38	83	8	17	46
Superintendent	167	134	80	33	20	167
Inspector	478	381	80	97	20	478
Sergeant	2,174	1,630	75	544	25	2,172.5
Garda	11,550	8,092	70	3,458	30	11,517.5
Total	14,425	10,279	71	4,146	29	14,391

Of which	As of 31 December 2025	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	29	19	65.5	10	34.5
Work-sharing	34	0.5	1.5	33.5	98.5
Secondments (Overseas etc.)	48	33	69	15	31
Maternity Leave	52	0	0	52	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	31	0	0	31	100
Paternity Leave	12	12	100	0	0
Available Strength	14,219	10,214.5	71.8	4,004.5	28.2

Garda Reserves Strength 31/12/2025	<i>Total</i>	Male	%	Female	%
	308	237	77	71	23

Suspensions as of 1 January 2026

Total members suspended: 107

Male: 97 Female: 10

CURRENT MEMBERS ON SUSPENSION BY RANK	
Region	(All)
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Rank	Total
Inspector Rank and above	3
Sergeant	12
Detective Garda	12
Garda	65
Probationer Garda	14
Reserve Garda	1
Grand Total	107

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	18
Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) Interference	9
Other	10
Corruption/Criminal Association	9
Assault/Assault Causing Harm	9
Domestic Violence/Coercive Control	11
Theft/Forgery/Fraud/Dishonesty	12
Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct	16
Drugs/Drug Related	4
Disclosure of Information/Data Protection/Abuse of PULSE	9
Grand Total	107

Suspensions					
Year	New Suspensions	Lifted	Ended (Resignation /Retirement)	Dismissal	Total (Lifted/ Ended/ Dismissal)
2019	26	4	5	10	19
2020	41	6	9	0	15
2021	44	13	8	1	22
2022	44	11	7	1	19
2023	27	19	13	0	32
2024	18	21	13	1*	35
2025	42	13	14	1	28
* Section 17(4)B Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 – Court Ordered					

Garda Staff Strengths by gender as at 31 December 2025

Grade	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
CCO	1	1	0	0	1	100
Executive Director	4	4	1	25	3	75
Chief Medical Officer	1	1	1	100	0	0
Director	3	3	2	66.7	1	33.3
PO	32	32	18	56.25	14	43.75
AP	121	121	59	48.8	62	51.2
HEO	248	246.4	97	39.1	151	60.9
AO	24	24	10	41.7	14	58.3
EO	901	891.6	309	34.3	592	65.7
CO	1,985	1,920	526	26.5	1,459	73.5
Total	3,320	3,244	1,023	30.8	2,297	69.2
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	70	69.8	35	50	35	50
Administrative ***	3,319	3,243.1	1,022	30.8	2,297	69.2
Industrial/Non Industrial	283	192.1	94	33.2	189	66.8
Total	3,672	3,505	1,151	31.3	2,521	68.7
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%
Maternity Leave	25	25	0	0	25	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	9	9	0	0	9	100
Paternity Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Total	3,638	3,471	1,151	31.6	2,487	68.4

* WTE = Whole time equivalent – Garda Staff work on a number of different work-sharing patterns.

** Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers.

*** Civil Service grades and other administrative posts.

Work Sharing	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
	271	76.1	17	6	254	94

*** Work-sharing figure excludes industrial/non-industrial staff. Many posts are part-time.

Career Breaks****	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
	22	22	7	32	15	68

**** Staff on career breaks are not included in total Garda strengths above.

Garda Staff Suspension figures as at 31 December 2025

Total	Male	%	Female	%
8	5	63	3	37

4. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of December 2025, the Office of Corporate Communications continued to communicate internally and externally on a broad range of policing activities undertaken by An Garda Síochána.

Media Briefings/Public Appeal for Information into the Fatal House Fire in Edenderry, Co. Offaly on 6 December 2025



Superintendent Liam Geraghty speaking to media in Tullamore Garda Station on 7 December 2025 following the fatal house fire in Edenderry, Co.Offaly.

In support of a public appeal for information in relation to an arson attack on a home in Edenderry, Co. Offaly, which resulted in the deaths of a four year old boy and his grand-aunt, and injured his grandmother, a media briefing was conducted on 7 December 2025, facilitated by Garda Press Officer, Superintendent Liam Geraghty.

This office further supported the investigation by issuing, for the first time via press release, CCTV held by An Garda Síochána, in an effort to identify those responsible for the heinous attack. A video was also produced and shared on social media with Divisional Chief Superintendent for the Laois/Offaly Division, Anthony Longergan.

Press releases and regular updates in relation to the public appeal for information, including the release of images of the deceased, were managed via the Garda Press Office.



CCTV footage capturing two individuals at the point of the arson attack outside the home in Edenderry, Co. Offaly which on 6 December 2025.

Media briefing: Announcement of Pilot Taser Programme on 18 December 2025



Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly conducts media briefing at Store Street Garda Station on 18 December 2025, where media received a demonstration of the deployment of a Taser ahead of the pilot rollout.

In support of the rollout of a Conductive Energy Device (Taser) pilot for frontline uniform Gardaí, media briefing was held in Store Street Garda Station on 18 December 2025, facilitated by Commissioner Justin Kelly and Acting Deputy Commissioner Security, Strategy and Governance Paul Cleary. The briefing served to provide information around the rollout of the pilot, highlight where these Tasers will be in operation and details as to their appropriate use and deployment.

16 Days of Activism Campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2025



Left: Detective Superintendent Derek Maguire, Jenny Pattwell, Partner at Ernst and Young and Pat Kenny at Newstalk. Right: A view of the social media content created in support of this campaign featuring participants Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan, Detective Superintendent Sinead Greene, Detective Superintendent Georgina Grey and Detective Superintendent Derek Maguire.

In support of the 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign that challenges violence against women and girls annually from 25 November to 10 December 2025, this office developed and disseminated social media videos with Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan, Detective Superintendent Sinead Greene, Detective Superintendent Georgina Grey and Detective Superintendent Derek Maguire on various topics surrounding digital abuse. Eight pieces of video content were generated touching on a number of key topics aligning with the campaign, such as digital abuse, sharing of intimate images, online grooming, domestic abuse in an online setting and technology being used to sexually exploit individuals, as well as its impact on human trafficking.

During The 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Office of Corporate Communications also supported the launch of the Harcourt Programme, a new public awareness campaign spotlighting the issue of human trafficking in Ireland. A number of media interviews were facilitated as part of the campaign, including Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan (Virgin Media) and Detective Superintendent Derek Maguire (Pat Kenny Show, Newstalk).








Garda Press Office Activity

The Garda Press Office operates 7am-11pm, seven days a week, responding to hundreds of queries, coordinating external communications and media relations, and regularly updating our social media platforms. This office issued 182 press releases, including 58 missing person appeals in respect of 31 individuals; 25 witness appeals; together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation during the month of December 2025.

Social Media Activities

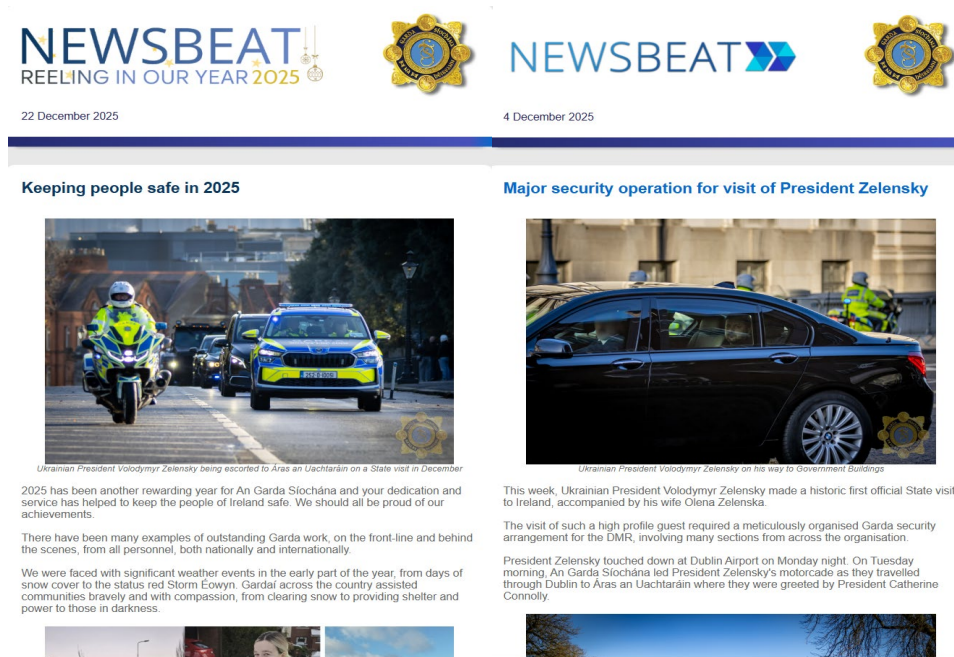
The Office of Corporate Communications oversees six official social media channels for An Garda Síochána; Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter) and Bluesky. Within these channels there are 43 separate accounts, including regional Facebook and regional Instagram profiles. There are approximately 2.5 million followers across all platforms. These channels are used to promote activity within the organisation, highlighting the good work being done nationwide. These channels are further used to provide key communications to the public on behalf of An Garda Síochána. These communications may include public information regarding traffic disruption, public appeals for information, alerts i.e. CRI alerts, and campaigns.

The Office of Corporate Communications measure the success of these communications by capturing a number of factors – the number of followers, the number of times content was viewed or displayed, rate of engagement with the account and the number of times the content was engaged with.

Social Media Channel	Number of Followers	Impressions	Engagement Rate	Industry Benchmark
 Facebook - @AnGardaSíochána	444,587	9,267,321	0.82%	1.5%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	36,565	1,611,012	0.6%	1.5%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	263,923	6,232,944	1.5%	2.6%
 X- @GardaInfo	298,369	191289	2.46%	1.7%
 X - @GardaTraffic	607,898	830,655	6.22%	1.7%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	86,413	623,330	1.2%	2.7%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	81,496	1,097,396	4.8%	1.6%

Internal Communications

In December 2025, An Garda Síochána Internal Communications Team delivered seven comprehensive issues of Newsbeat. The average Newsbeat open rate is 66%. This is higher than the industry standard open rate of 57.17% for internal newsletters, and the 52.26% average within Government and Public Service organisations.



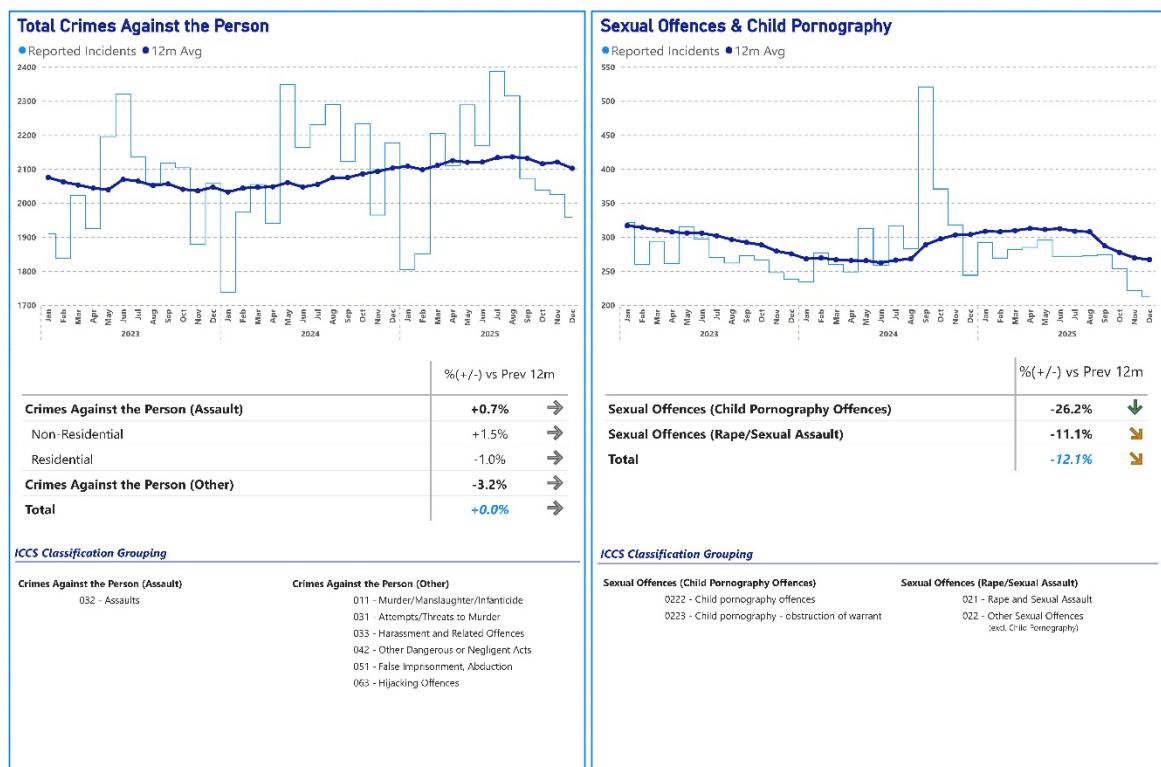
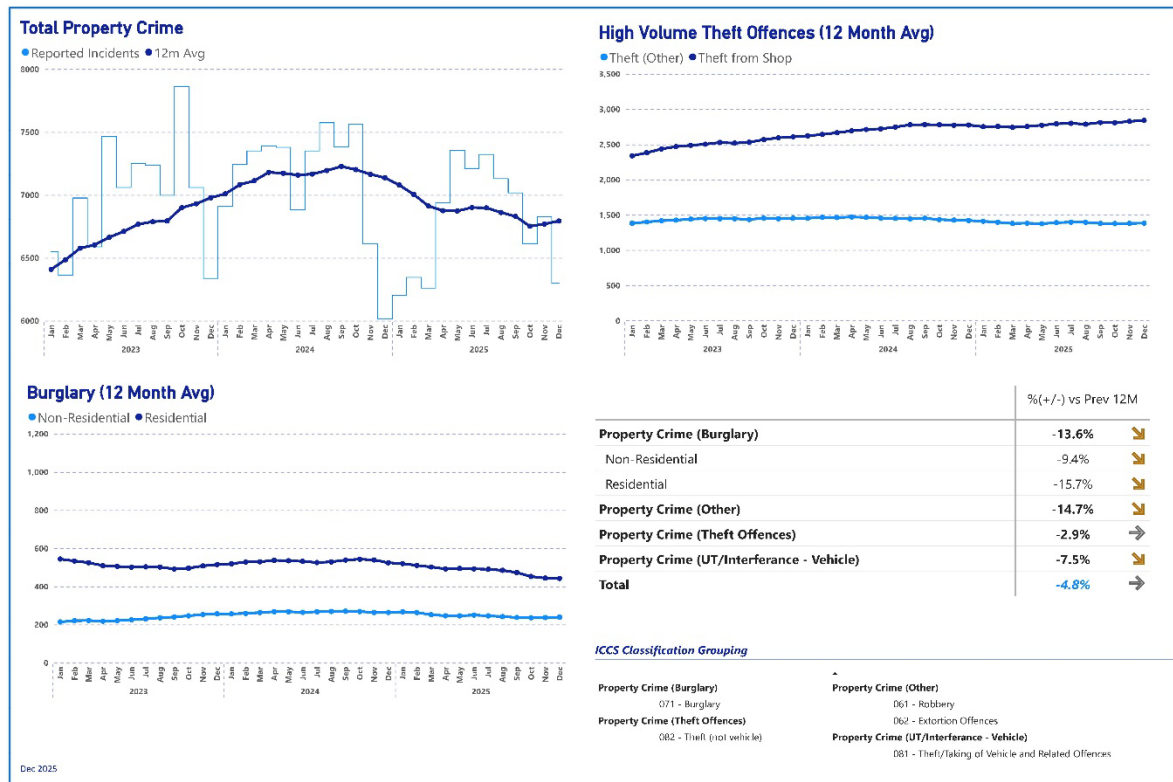
Newsbeat highlights from December 2025 include:

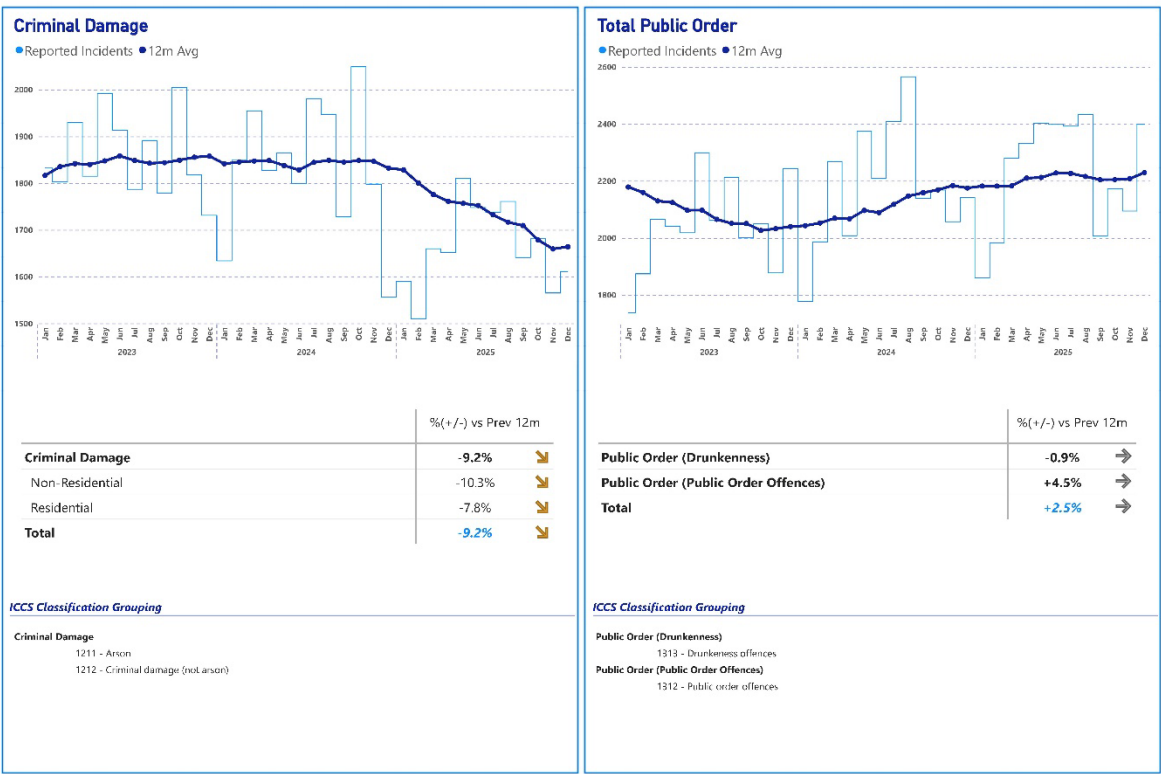
- A Christmas and New Year road safety message from Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing and Community Engagement.
- Coverage of the major security operation for the visit of President Zelenskyy.
- Information for personnel on the DRIVE National Awareness Campaign.
- Coverage of An Garda Síochána Taser pilot.
- Article on Commissioner Kelly's meeting with newly appointed Data Protection Commissioners.
- Reeling in Our Year: A look back at An Garda Síochána activity in 2025.

5. Crime Trends

Crime Trends

The Garda Síochána Analysis Service closely monitors crime trends, and disseminates analysis on a regional and divisional basis. This feeds directly into planning operational activities aimed at reducing and preventing crime. Crime incident figures and the associated trends are based on provisional data, and are subject to change following review. The CSO publications represent the official crime statistics. These are carried in the CSO's quarterly publications of crime trends and in their annual reports.





Use of Force December 2025

Use of Force Comparison – November 2025 / December 2025				
Category	Nov-25	Dec-25	Increase/ Decrease	% Change
Total UOF for Month	1,174	1,360	186	16%
Civilians Injured	19	27	8	42%
Garda Members Injured	9	18	9	100%
Pepper Spray Deployed	116	132	16	14%
Batons	33	27	-6	-18%
Handcuffs	1,033	1,199	166	16%
Anti-Spit Guard	0	1	1	0%
Unarmed Restraint	163	176	13	8%
Taser	2	3	1	50%
Less Lethal Firearm	0	0	0	0%
Firearm	0	0	0	0%
Gender Subject to Force - Male	872	1,033	161	18%
Gender Subject to Force - Female	130	133	3	2%
Drugs Involved	304	347	43	14%
Alcohol Involved	639	777	138	22%
Division with highest level UOF DMR South Central	224	214	-10	-4%
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	52.20%	45.80%	-6.40%	

6. Demonstrations and Events

Demonstrations

An Garda Síochána provided a policing response, including traffic management at a number of protests and demonstrations, which continued to focus on themes including anti-immigration, associated accommodation and international conflict.

Table 1 - Demonstration (Non Crime) - 2025

Region	2025
Dublin Region	937
Eastern Region	123
North Western Region	77
Southern Region	191
Total	1,328

Table 2 - Demonstration (Non Crime) – Dec 2025

Region	Dec 2025
Dublin Region	79
Eastern Region	4
North Western Region	0
Southern Region	7
Grand Total	90

Data as was present on the PULSE database on the morning of 05/01/2026 was drawn down, tallying all incidents of type demonstrations (non-crime), barring invalid incidents between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025. The data contained herein is operational and subject to change.

7. Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In December 2025, 24 people died in fatal collisions. There were 67 serious injury collisions reported in December 2025. An Garda Síochána continues to implement the 30-minute roads policing initiative which was introduced in April 2024 to increase visibility on our roads. In December 2025, there were 4,869 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of approximately 11 arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 16 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were more than 2,600 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in December 2025.

	December 2025
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,523
Seatbelt FCNs	398
Intercept Speed FCNs	2,483
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	13,079
Total Speed FCNs	15,562
E-scooter FCNs	74

Driving While Intoxicated*	796
Driving While Intoxicated - alcohol as a factor	470
Driving While Intoxicated - drugs as a factor	294
Driving While Intoxicated – alcohol & drugs as a factor	32

Section 41 Detentions	December 2025
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)**	2,622
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,560
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	881
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	439
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	620

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	December 2025
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	20,880
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	1,481

* Driving while intoxicated excludes incidents of type 'Driver Under the Limit (No Offence Disclosed)' and 'In Charge Under The Limit (No Offence Disclosed)'.

** It is important to note that vehicles may be detained under S.41 of the Road Traffic Act for more than one reason.

Information contained in this section is based upon operational data from the PULSE and FCPS systems as was available on 02/01/2026, and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

8. Prevention and Disruption of Crime

The second annual meeting of the EU Network of Law Enforcement Contact Points

Between 1-3 December 2025, the Garda National Diversity Unit attended the second annual meeting of the EU Network of Law Enforcement Contact Points in Brussels. This two-day event was an opportunity for law enforcement experts and prosecutors of hate crime, from across all Member States, to meet and collaborate. The network aims to enhance the effectiveness of national and transnational investigations of hate speech and hate crime, by facilitating operational support, strengthening institutional capacities, facilitating networking among law enforcement agencies and developing necessary tools or platforms to support these activities.

The main objectives of the network are to:

- Provide effective and timely operational support for national and cross-border investigations of hate speech and hate crime.
- Strengthen institutional capacities through ongoing training and resource matching.
- Facilitate networking and collaboration among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders.
- Develop and maintain tools or platforms that support the network.

The second bi-annual National Strategic Retail Theft Forum

On 2 December 2025, the bi-annual National Strategic Retail Theft Forum took place. The National Strategic Retail Theft Forum is embedded in the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy 2021 – 2024. A number of presentations took place, touching on topics such as crime statistics provided by the Garda Síochána Analysis Service, Operation Táirge National Days of Action and crime prevention.

This forum provides An Garda Síochána an opportunity to hear from those involved in the retail sector. It also allows those organisations to ask Gardaí questions in an open forum regarding retail theft, crime prevention and prosecution.

Recovery of stolen Reliquary by the Arts and Antiques Crime Investigation Unit

Following international collaboration, Gardaí attached to the Arts and Antiques Crime Investigation Unit, Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation recovered reliquary (two Shrines) in the Eastern Region, which had been reported stolen from a Church in the Czech Republic in March 2000.



The reliquaries are now in the possession of An Garda Síochána (Arts and Antiques Crime Investigation Unit). Liaison is ongoing with the Criminal Police and Investigation Service in the Czech Republic, via Interpol, to arrange for the return of the stolen reliquary to the Czech Republic.

World Human Rights Day

On 10 December 2025, World Human Rights Day, a multiagency operation was conducted at Dublin Airport organised by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. The operation's primary goal was to raise awareness of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland, and also provide information on the supports available to victims and survivors, and how they can be accessed.

Members of both the Organised Prostitution Investigation Unit and the Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit took part in this day of action. Along with members of An Garda Síochána and the Border Management Unit, the following agencies participated on the day: Ruhama,

AkiDwA – Network of Migrant Women, the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Health Service Executive (HSE).

Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau meet with the Swedish Police

On 15 December 2025, the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau (GNYDB) met online with colleagues from the Swedish Police. This meeting followed on from a European Union Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) Expert Meeting on Recruitment of Children into Organised Crime held in Stockholm in May 2025. GNYDB gave a presentation on the Garda Youth Diversion Programme and youth crime in Ireland, with a focus on recruitment of children into organised crime and various initiatives under the Youth Justice Strategy to address same, such as Youth Diversion Projects; Greentown; Harder to Reach and Early Intervention.

At the request of the Swedish Police, GNYDB will deliver a workshop at the Swedish Training College in Stockholm in February 2026, on the Youth Diversion Programme in Ireland and the Irish approach to tackling youth crime, with a particular emphasis on the role of the diversion, Juvenile Liaison Officer(s) and community focused policing in Ireland. The workshop will be delivered to approximately 40 Swedish Police Officers who are engaged in working with children who commit crime.

Sweden and Ireland are both examining the recruitment of children to commit offences by organised crime groups. This is a good opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices in tackling this phenomenon, and on the wider topic of youth crime.

9. Community Engagement

Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards

On 10 December 2025, the Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards took place. Now in its sixteenth year, the Leading Light award recognises individuals, groups and communities from all over Ireland who have helped to make our roads safer. Entrants are honoured for their contribution towards Vision Zero (zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2050).

The Garda National Community Policing Unit took part in the judging panel and attended the final awards ceremony. Ms. Maura Moore-McCune was the winner of the top Gertie Shields Supreme Award for her work on vision-impaired road users, recognising individuals and groups promoting safety through education, and initiatives such as the University of Limerick's Smarter Travel project and Scoil na bhForbacha's efforts.

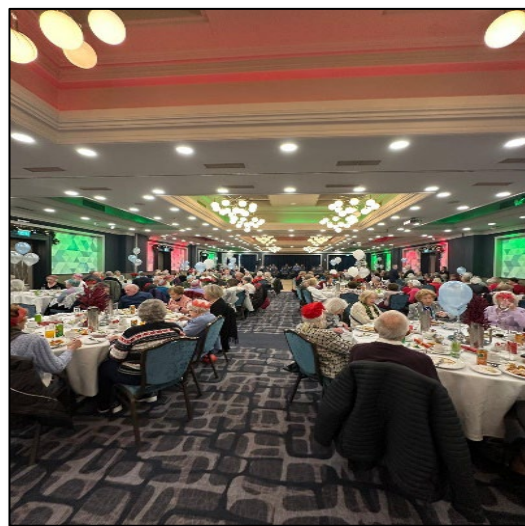
The launch of 'Kick-starting the Community' programme in the Eastern Region

On 10 December 2025, 'Kick-starting the Community', a community led awareness, education and rehabilitation programme was officially launched in the Eastern Region. The new initiative is aimed at promoting the safe use of e-scooters, e-bikes and motorbikes, while at the same time reducing anti-social behaviour.

The programme was developed in response to local residents raising concerns about the use of electric scooters in their communities and An Garda Síochána were delighted to be in attendance for its official launch. It is hoped that this programme will be an intervention that is utilised by the people in the Eastern Region for the safety of everyone on the roads.

Dublin Metropolitan Region held the 2025 Old Folks Christmas Party

On 10 December 2025, the Community Policing Unit in the Dublin Metropolitan Region held the 2025 Old Folks Christmas Party. Over 200 senior guests attended the event and Dublin Bus kindly donated the use of a number of buses to transport guests.



The Garda Band turned on their charm and had the crowd buzzing around the dance floor. A number of local businesses supplied a vast array of presents which were shared amongst the guests. Support was provided by local Transition Year students who assisted at every turn and showed off their skills on the dance floor.

Little Blue Heroes Christmas party

On 14 December 2025, the annual Little Blue Heroes Christmas party took place in the North Western Region. An Garda Síochána hosted this annual party at Sligo Airport, with members from the National Coast Guard generously gave their time and showed the Little Blue Heroes around the Rescue Helicopter 118. After the tour of the helicopter and the hangar, Santa joined the party arriving in a fire truck.

Garda Southern Christmas Policing Operation

For the duration of the Garda Southern Christmas Policing Operation, a youth café has operated in the Southern Region. This café is funded by local resources and staffed by Foróige. In the course of this year's programme, over 150 children were engaged with over 2,500 contact hours.

This is the second year of the youth café, which was launched in an effort to reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour by young people during the busy festive period. This is a multi-agency project and is very much supported by the local community who have witnessed the positive impact it has had.